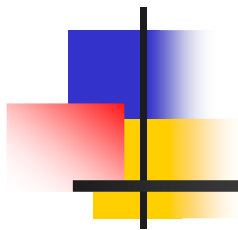
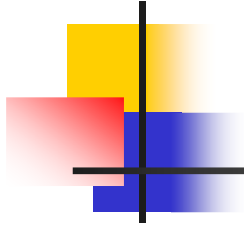


Domestic Violence Kits Orientation Training



For the Plainfield & Putnam Police
Departments
July 21, 2008



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Funding for this portion of the project

- “Brooklyn Cares”. A program at Brooklyn Community Correctional Center, Connecticut Department of Corrections
- With assistance from United Services Inc.



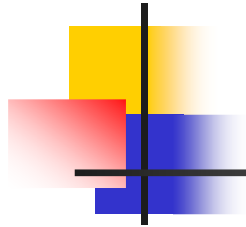
Goals of the grant

- Improve the quality of Domestic Violence investigations / reports.
- Improve training for law enforcement, prosecutors and judges.
- Improve the coordination of prosecution between police, prosecutors, and advocates.
- Develop and promote the best practices for the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence crimes.



Domestic Violence Kits

- Provide as much consistency as practical, and promote best practices, by providing guides and references.
- Keep all tools in one place, at your fingertips.
- Enhance investigations through the first line use of digital photography.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
INVESTIGATION KITS CONSIST
OF A BLACK NYLON BRIEF CASE
CONTAINING A CLIP BOARD
AND:



Guides & References

(Laminated for easy use and durability)

- Response guidelines.
- Local United Services resources.
- Protection order quick reference.
- Strangulation investigation checklist.
- Other investigation references will be developed and distributed to participating departments periodically.



Report paperwork

- Containing every piece of local, and state paperwork that a Law Enforcement officer may need in the field to investigate a domestic violence crime.
- Plastic storage envelopes are supplied so that all paperwork needed in a D/V investigation are available in the kit.



Victim Information (tear sheets)

- CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence
 - Basic Information
 - 1-888 - number
- Victim Rights Card (JD-VS-2)
 - Required by Law



Digital Camera

- Encourage complete documentation of domestic violence crimes.
- Encourage the forwarding of images for the first court appearance. This is when decisions are made on bail, protective orders and conditions of release.

Kit camera – Canon Power Shot- Set/up & Use



Kit Camera – Cannon Power Shot





Why is photographic evidence important in D/V cases?

- Wounds heal, evidence is fleeting.
- Victims recant, sometimes fail to cooperate.
- Defendants and their attorneys minimize injury.

Photos as evidence – CT case law



- Is the image a fair and accurate representation? (1898 case)
- Does the probative value outweigh the prejudicial value? (1922 case)



Camera use

- Injuries to victims, including defensive wounds.
- Injuries to offenders indicating violent actions.
- Damage to scene, telephone, etc...
- Disheveled or damaged clothing.
- Other examples...



Photographing injuries

- Overall appearance of victim.
- When photographing injury use scale for perspective. (Rulers supplied)
- Whenever possible “fill the frame” with your subject.
- Check the image for clarity and composition. If it doesn't tell the story accurately, take it again.



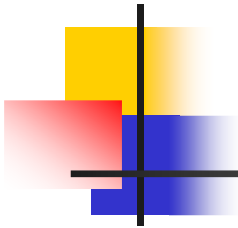
Common errors in photography

- Subject too far away – no detail.
- Subject too close – blurred.
- No scale or perspective.
- Over flash – image washed out.



To close - blurred





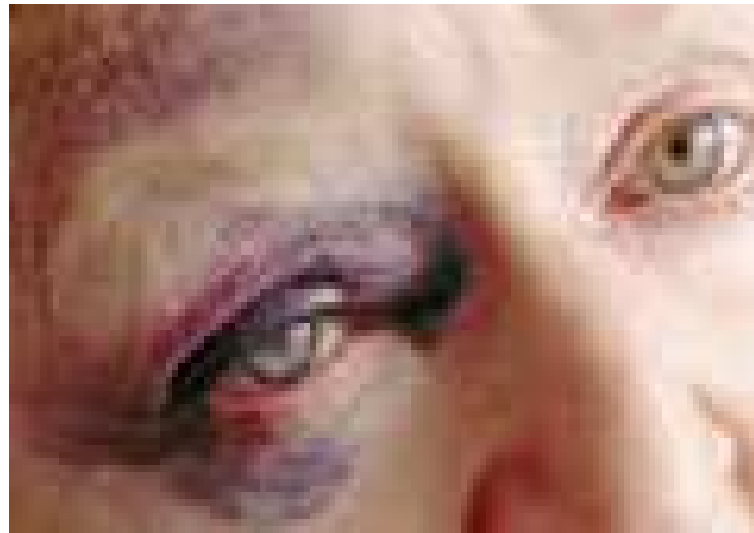
Good photo, however...(Smile?)



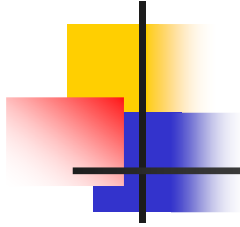
This photo demonstrates the emotional state of victim.



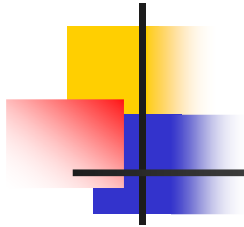
Close up photo shows detail. Be careful not to crop out injury



Ruler for perspective, watch shadows.



Lack of perspective – What body part?



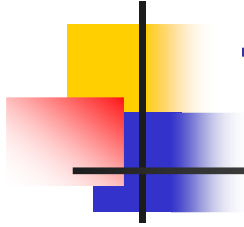
Defensive injury may
corroborate victim story.

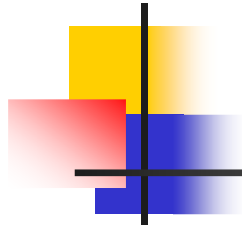


Photograph defensive wounds on suspect



A picture tells the story better
than words.





Learn the camera

- Take time to explore the features.
- Pull up the menu, and learn how to change image quality.
- Try downloading before you are working with important evidence.
- Play with it.



Photographic evidence is important

- Determining probable cause (if needed
 - beware of sunshine law provisions)
- Arguing for bond.
- Justifying a protective order
- At trial



Conclusion

- You are the gate keeper to the criminal justice system.
- Be aware that victims are sometimes re-victimized by the very system that is suppose to protect them.
- Don't allow a negative interaction with one victim to effect how you deliver services to subsequent victims.



My contact info

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